**Spurt in the courier services in the private sector**

1080. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is an increase in number of private courier services in the recent past ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the increase is directly attributable to the decline of delivery system of Post and Telegraph Departments ;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to regulate the working of those services so that they cannot act in an arbitrary manner ; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to make good the revenue loss to Government due to operation of these services?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Department is aware of the existence and increase of private couriers. However, the number of couriers operating is not known since the Department of Posts is not responsible for grant of licence for operation of courier services.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) No. Sir. The operation of private courier service is apparently the result of new demand for a specialised service from the business and industrial sections. The traditional mail services are not fully equipped to meet these new demands of this market segment. Post's reply to the competition from the couriers is the new service called Speed Post. The annual turnover of this service has increased from Rs. 2·7 crores in 1987 to Rs. 8·4 crores in 1989.

(d) In view of (a) & (c), question does not arise.

(e) The money collected by the private couriers for their service cannot be taken as a loss of revenue to the Department of Posts because the Deptt. of posts is not rendering any service in such cases and no cost is incurred. Hon'ble Members are aware of losses in mail services for which subsidy is being given. Postal tariffs are generally below cost for most servicesi.

**Portable pocket Telephones**

1081. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some portable pocket telephone (wallet size) has been invented in the United States of America ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that such an instrument is very cheap ;

(c) whether Government propose to send some team of engineers to study the mechanism of this instrument Porits indigenous production ;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE